

Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, ICRC

SUBJECT: LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE--CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS COMMITTEE

1. MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION (4 MARCH) DEVOTED LARGELY TO DISCUSSION OF JOINT EGYPT, LIBYA, MEXICO, NORWAY, SUDAN, SWITZERLAND, YUGOSLAVIA PROPOSAL, QUOTED BELOW, RE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AD HOC COMMITTEE ON WEAPONS. EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP OPPOSED EXCEPT FOR ROMANIA. CHINA AND ROMANIA DESIRED DELETION OF WORD "CONVENTIONAL".

2. CONFERENCE ADOPTED PROPOSAL BY VOTE 68(US)-0-10 (PRINCIPALLY EASTERN GROUP LESS ROMANIA). CHINA AND ROMANIA MADE STATEMENTS EXPLAINING THEIR AFFIRMATIVE VOTES VIZ. EVEN WITHOUT INCLUSION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION THE PROPOSAL IS A MOVEMENT FORWARD.

3. PROPOSAL FOLLOWS:

"THE CONFERENCE DECIDES TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FOR THE QUESTION OF PROHIBITION OR RESTRICTION OF USE OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY CAUSE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNNECESSARY SUFFERING OR HAVE INDISCRIMINATE

EFFECTS. THE RULES OF PROCEDURE REGARDING PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES SHALL BE APPLICABLE TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON WEAPONS. HOWEVER, RULE 47 SHALL BE APPLICABLE ONLY SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE 1974 SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE.

"DURING THE 1974 SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE THE AD HOC COMMITTEE SHALL EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF PROHIBITION OR RESTRICTION OF USE OF SPECIFIC CATEGORIES OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY CAUSE UNNECESSARY SUFFERING OR HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS, AND CONSIDER ALL PROPOSALS WHICH ARE SUBMITTED TO THE CONFERENCE RELATING TO SUCH WEAPONS. IT SHALL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE ON THE RESULTS OF ITS WORK. THIS REPORT--DESCRIBING THE DISCUSSIONS AND INCLUDING THE PROPOSALS TABLED AS WELL AS THE RECORDS OF THE COMMITTEE--SHALL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE ICRC WITH A VIEW TO ASSISTING IT IN IDENTIFYING QUESTIONS AND POSSIBILITIES WHICH NEED TO BE EXPLORED IN DEPTH BY THE CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS WHICH IT WILL CONVENE 1974 AND IN ASSISTING IT IN FINDING THE MOST SUITABLE WORK PLAN AND MODE OF ORGANIZATION OF THAT CONFERENCE." DALE

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